Rinse in water, dehydrate in alcohol, and mount in balsam. The iron-haematoxylin solution may be kept for several days in good condition, or until it begins to smell strongly of ether.

Watson & Sons' New Catalogue

There is a tendency on the part of microscopists to underestimate the importance of the condenser or illuminating apparatus which is used in all high-power microscopical work. A large number of well-known houses do not even quote anything beyond the Abbé illuminator. But it has been pointed out time and again that the limitations in working with a condenser of this description are very great, and its continued use is probably due to the failure of workers to appreciate these limitations, and because its very want of aplanatism renders it easier to work with than a more accurately made system. Briefly stated, the Abbé illuminator consists of two lenses only, and it is neither aplanatic nor achromatic. The maximum solid cone which it is capable of transmitting is .50 N. A., with the result that, however large an aperture the objective may have, its effective working under critical conditions is reduced by the condenser to .50 N. A.—that is, if an investigator is using a 1-12-inch oil immersion of 1.30 N. A. and Abbé illuminator, he is only actually employing about half of the effective aperture of the lens.

We are reminded of this by a perusal of a new edition of the catalogue of the well-known English house, W. Watson & Sons, 313 High Holborn, London, in which, as is common with the leading English houses, a great feature is made of substage condensers and principally those of large aplanatic aperture. They range from an oil immersion system having a full aperture of 1.35 and an aplanatic aperture of 1.25, through other systems having respectively apertures of 1.0 N. A. with an aplanatic aperture of .9, and another of .5 N. A. with an aplanatic aperture of .48, to the macro illuminator, which is designed especially for producing a uniform illumination of large objects under low powers.

On this account alone this catalogue is worth the consideration of microscopists; beyond this there is a wealth of information in it concerning not only the typical English stands which are associ-

ated with this firm's name, but probably every accessory which microscopists can wish for.

Special interest attaches to the introduction by them of two new objectives. One is a 1-6-inch of their parachromatic series, which has been made by them on a newly computed formula of their expert, Mr. Conrady. The unique feature of this lens lies in the fact that it possesses a working distance of 1 millimetre. This means that the bacteriologist can use it on "hanging drop" cultures and employ it freely with his haemacytometer covers and thickly covered objects without any risk whatever of damage. In addition to this, apart from the claims of the makers as to its fine performance, there is the testimony given at the October meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society of London in a paper communicated by Mr. E. M. Nelson, the well-known authority, that "Few lenses, apart from apochromats, have shown as well as this new 1-6 inch, a balsam-mounted *Pleurosigma formosum*—the most severe test to which any dry lens such as this can be subjected"; and further statements to the same effect were given by Dr. E. J. Spitta, the well-known author of "Microscopy," and Dr. Eyre, bacteriologist to Guy's Hospital, London.

The other lens is a 2 mm. of Watson's holoscopic series, which is now made with a guaranteed numerical aperture of 1.37.

Many pages in the 176-page catalogue are devoted to photomicrographic apparatus, and we can heartily commend an examination of this list to microscopists. It will well repay the writing of a request to forward it, which Messrs. Watson inform us they will have much pleasure in complying with, free of charge.

The Microscopy of Technical Products

A companion volume to Dr. Winton's Microscopy of Vegetable Foods, and equally attractive in make-up and contents is the Microscopy of Technical Products, by Dr. T. F. Hanausek, revised by the author and translated by Dr. Winton. Like the former, this volume is published by John Wiley & Sons, of New York City.

Dr. Hanausek is distinguished as an investigator, a teacher, and a technical expert, and his work is distinguished by scientific accuracy, clearness, and utility as a guide in diagnosis. In the